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Admission of the World Tourism Organization to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its 77th plenary meeting, on 1 December 1995, the General Assembly decided, on the recommendation of the General Committee, to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session an additional item entitled "Admission of the World Tourism Organization to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee. Spain had requested the inclusion of the item and, in the explanatory memorandum accompanying its request (A/50/236, annex), provided background information on the application of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) for admission to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF).

2. The requirements for membership in UNJSPF are set out in article 3, paragraphs (b) and (c), of the Regulations of the Fund, which read as follows:

> "(b) Membership in the Fund shall be open to the specialized agencies referred to in Article 57, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations and to any other international, intergovernmental organization that participates in the common system of salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.
>
> "(c) Admission to membership in the Fund shall be by decision of the General Assembly, upon the affirmative recommendation of the Board [United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board], after acceptance by the organization concerned of these Regulations and agreement reached with the Board as to the conditions which shall govern its admission."

3. The Secretary-General transmits to the Fifth Committee the annexed note by the Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board concerning the application of WTO, which had been considered by the Standing Committee of the Board at its meeting in July 1995.

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ANNEX

Note by the Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, prepared after consultations with the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Board

1. The application of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) for membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) was considered by the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board at its meeting held from 10 to 14 July 1995, on the basis of an exchange of correspondence between the Secretary-General of WTO and the Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board.

2. The Standing Committee had been informed that the decision of the Executive Council of WTO in favour of applying for membership in UNJSPF would be submitted to the General Assembly of WTO at its session in October 1995, together with the required amendments to that organization's Staff Regulations and Rules. As this matter was not on the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Standing Committee had to examine modalities for expediting consideration of the admission of WTO to the Fund should (a) the membership requirements established in the Fund's Regulations be met, and (b) the item be subsequently added to the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

3. The following excerpt from the sessional report of the Standing Committee summarizes the position of the Standing Committee:

> "100. The Standing Committee expressed support for the Secretary's suggestions to expedite to the maximum possible extent the processing of an application for Fund membership by the World Tourism Organization. The Standing Committee therefore agreed that the following procedure could be followed in the event that (a) the organization met all the requirements for Fund membership in October 1995, and (b) no special Board session were convened to consider other items in late 1995 or early 1996: since the Board had in 1988 recommended approval of a membership application by the World Tourism Organization, the Secretary would be justified in consulting the staff pension committees of member organizations in order to ascertain their readiness to approve by correspondence renewal of the previous application for Fund membership by that organization."

It was understood that such a procedure would only be utilized following verification by the secretariats of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and of the Fund that the staff regulations and rules of WTO conformed to the common system.

4. At its eleventh session held from 17 to 22 October 1995, the General Assembly of WTO, inter alia, endorsed the recommendation of its Executive Council that the organization should apply for membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, with effect from 1 January 1996 or as soon as possible thereafter, and entrusted the Executive Council of WTO with approving at its next session the amendments to the Staff Rules of WTO which had been

communicated to the General Assembly of WTO; the amendments were adopted by the Executive Council of WTO on 22 October 1995, effective from the date WTO becomes a member organization of the Fund. The Secretary of the Pension Board and the Executive Secretary of ICSC had reviewed those amendments and agreed that they would achieve conformity with the "common system of salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the United Nations and the specialized agencies".

5. As requested by the Standing Committee of the Pension Board, the Secretary of the Board informed the staff pension committees of the Fund's member organizations of the decision by the General Assembly of WTO referred to in the preceding paragraph. All the staff pension committees conveyed their concurrence and support for the admission of WTO to membership in the Fund.

6. Accordingly, pursuant to the agreement reached in the Standing Committee, the Fifth Committee may wish to recommend to the General Assembly that it approve the application by the World Tourism Organization for membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, effective as from 1 January 1996.